



John L. Salomone
Town Manager

TOWN OF NEWINGTON

131 CEDAR STREET
NEWINGTON, CONNECTICUT 06111

MAYOR STEPHEN WOODS

MINUTES

NEWINGTON TOWN COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING 7:00 P.M.

December 11, 2012

Mayor Woods called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. in the Helen Nelson Room.

I. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

II. ROLL CALL

Councilor Borjeson
Councilor Bottalico
Councilor Castelle
Councilor Cohen
Councilor DelBuono
Councilor Klett
Councilor McBride
Councilor Nagel
Mayor Woods

Staff attendees:

John Salomone, Town Manager
Jamie Trevethan, Executive Assistant
Linda Irish-Simpson, Clerk of the Council

III. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – IN GENERAL - None

IV. REMARKS BY COUNCILORS

Councilor Bottalico gave the Council and residents stats on the below:

- 2011 storm resulted in \$1,351,903.64 and \$127,510 being received from the government
- Rainy day fund has about \$14 million
- Tax collection rate: 98.9%
- Thirteen year report on health benefits: over the last 13 years the Board of Education received \$4,333,000 back and the Town got \$2,140,000 back
- Board of Education returned \$278,000 to the Town

V. CONSIDERATION OF OLD BUSINESS

A. Administrative Group Salaries

John Salomone gave an overview of issues discussed at the last meeting and reminded Councilors the group included employees in Social Services, IT, Human Resources, Town Manager's office, Senior Center, Parks and Rec Department, and Library staff. He indicated it would be an across the board increase of two percent. Councilor Klett stated it was usual for the union employee contracts to be negotiated first before the administrative employees received an increase and Mr. Salomone stated that he hoped it might strengthen the Town's position to let the union know where the salary increase limit was. The increase was determined by

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taking an average of surrounding towns' increases and the two percent was actually the low end of the scale. Councilor Castelle stated private employers for the last three years have increased wages from 2% to 3% and government employees were approximately 2.1%. He indicated Social Security would go up 1.7%, inflation the last two months was 2.2% and indicated the entire payroll would not go up 2% but would go up 1.62% due to other factors.

Councilor Borjeson moved the following:

WHEREAS, there exists a budget amount sufficient to fund from contingency a two percent (2%) salary increase for eligible Administrative Group employees;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Newington Town Council approves a salary increase for eligible Administrative Group employees of two percent (2%) effective July 1, 2012.

The motion was seconded by Councilor Cohen and on a roll call vote passed 9 – 0.

VI. CONSIDERATION OF NEW BUSINESS

A. Low Impact Development Project – Local Land Use Committee

John Salomone gave of a grant that would enable Newington to obtain \$50k to (2 parts) assist in updating regulations to include low impact planning into the Town's regulations, whether zoning, building, codes, etc. The regulations would be very environmentally friendly regulations to help reduce site disturbances and allowing for minimization of water runoff into rivers and streams by having rain water go through the material and drain away. The material would cost more initially but would last much longer than the material currently used in projects. The Town would get \$50k for a demonstration project that would be determined at a later date. The committee would consist of the Town Planner, staff engineer, a representative from Planning and Zoning and Conservation and an at large representative.

Councilor Cohen asked how the money could be used and Mr. Salomone explained it could be used for retention basins, parking lots, green roofs and other ways to deemphasize development in the community. The committee would be a temporary committee. Councilor Borjeson commented that a report was done which showed that an inch of rain translated into 59,000 gallons of pollutants that went into rivers and streams if the road was 2 lanes and a mile long. He also stated that New London had done a similar project and wanted Mr. Salomone to look into what they had done. Mr. Salomone indicated that Farmington had gotten a grant a few years prior and Newington was the second to get the money. The State would like the project to be completed within a year.

B. Discussion: Capital Improvement Program Budget

Councilor Klett indicated she wanted to be sure everyone understood what would be taking place with the CIP. She had asked Mr. Salomone about the possibility of not receiving the entire amount of State aid and the impact on the CIP. Mr. Salomone said his recommendation was to fund the CIP as the regular pay as you go allotment and wait to see what happened with the State aid in April. He said the Council should fund the \$6.3 million in CIP and felt there would be a better indication in the spring as to the funding. Mr. Salomone explained he did not know where possible cuts would come from in the future and the State could change the formula for aid to towns which would impact Newington. Councilor Cohen agreed with the Town Manager and felt that everything had to be on the table during budget sessions in the spring. Councilor Bottalico stated that if the State began to charge the Board of Ed for the Hartford magnet schools, it would be hard for the Town to absorb.

C. Town Council 2013 Regular Meeting Schedule

A brief discussion was held on the proposed meeting schedule for 2013. A resolution to vote on the proposed schedule will be held at the next Town Council meeting.

D. Consideration of Canceling the December 18, 2012 Town Council Meeting

Councilor Bottalico made a motion to waive the rules so a vote could be taken on canceling the December 18 Town Council Meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilor Castelle and passed 9 – 0.

Councilor McBride moved the following:

RESOLVED:

That the Newington Town Council hereby alters its meeting schedule by canceling its regular meeting scheduled for December 18, 2012.

Councilor Cohen seconded the motion and was passed 9 – 0.

VII. RESIGNATIONS/APPOINTMENTS**A. Town Hall Renovations Project Building Committee**

Councilor Borjeson moved the following:

RESOLVED:

**That the Newington Town Council hereby makes the following appointment:
Town Hall Renovation Project Building Committee**

Name	Addresses	Party	Appointing Party	Term	Replaces
BOARD OF PARKS & Rec Rep: Jennifer Win-Johnson	23 Welles Dr. N.	R	R	IMMED-TBD	J. Perillo (resigned 11/12)

The motion was seconded by Councilor Cohen and passed 9 – 0.

- B. Commission on Aging and Disabled**
1. Accept Resignation of Eunice Scharr

Councilor Borjeson moved the following:

RESOLVED:

That the Newington Town Council hereby accepts the resignation of Eunice Scharr from the Commission on Aging and Disabled in accordance with a communication dated December 3, 2012.

Councilor Cohen seconded by motion and it passed 9 -0.

RESOLVED:

That the Newington Town Council hereby makes the following appointments:

Development Commission

Name	Address	Party	Appt. Party	Term	Replaces
Dave Marsden	73 Maple Hill Avenue	D	D	Immed. – 11/30/15	D. Marsden (term exp. 11/30/12)
Fernando Rosa	22 Chaplin Street	D	D	Immed. – 11/30/15	F. Rosa (term exp. 11/30/12)
Alternate: Karen Faust	55 Faith Road	D	D	Immed. – 11/30/14	Vacant

Human Rights Commission

Name	Address	Party	Appt. Party	Term	Replaces
Paul Plavcan	3 Center Court	D	D	IMMED – 11/30/15	P. Plavcan (Term exp. 11/30/12)

Pauline Kruk	165 Walsh Avenue	D	D	IMMED – 11/30/15	P. DiChara (Term exp. 11/30/12)
Aden Baume	239 Hampton Court	D	D	IMMED – 11/30/15	B. Wiley (Term exp 11/30/12)

Town Plan and Zoning Commission

**7 members, 3 Alternates, 4 year term
Party Max: 5 Regular, 2 Alternate**

Name	Address	Party	Appt. Party	Term	Replaces
Stanley Sobieski	26 Deepwood Drive	D	D	IMMED – 11/30/16	S. Sobieski (term exp. 11/30/12)

The motion was seconded by Councilor Cohen and passed 9 – 0.

VIII. TAX REFUNDS

Councilor DelBuono moved the following:

RESOLVED:

That property tax refunds in the amount of \$3,275.85 are hereby approved in the individual amounts and for those named on the “Requests for Refund of an Overpayment of Taxes,” certified by the Revenue Collector, a list of which is attached to this resolution.

The motion was seconded by Councilor Cohen and passed 9 – 0.

IX. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

A. Regular Meeting, November 27, 2012

Councilor Cohen moved to accept the meeting minutes of November 27 and it was seconded by Councilor Nagel. The motion passed 7 – 0 with Councilors Klett and DelBuono abstaining.

X. WRITTEN/ORAL COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE TOWN MANAGER, OTHER TOWN AGENCIES AND OFFICIALS, OTHER GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES AND OFFICIALS AND THE PUBLIC – none.

XI. COUNCIL LIAISON/COMMITTEE REPORTS

Councilor Borjeson attended a recent CRCOG meeting and gave an overview of a market analysis of the Knowledge Corridor, which discussed all the bus stops and trains in the corridor. He stated that the U.S. shares of jobs near transit by industry group was studied and found knowledge, education and health took the top shares. Councilor Borjeson said the ability to get to the Health Center and CCSU would fit in with the project. The report also indicated there were three areas where you could ask more for existing housing than new house construction. Two the areas were in Newington, Cedar Street and Newington Junction. He indicated the entire report was on the CRCOG website if the Councilors were interested in reading the report.

Councilor Nagel attended the Newington TV meeting and indicated the Ambler room was complete except for a couple of issues with the audio. A website update was currently being done and should be available shortly.

Councilor Cohen attended the Youth and Adult Council and stated there was a real economic need within the Town and were concerned about the next year's budget allocation since there were homeless families and many needing other assistance. Mayor Woods said he had taken a tour of the area where the food for the Food Bank was stored and was gratified to see how generous the people of Newington had been.

Councilor McBride stated the Town Hall Renovation Project Committee had met and eliminated some of the proposed sites for the Park and Rec Building that did not fit the needs of the Town. There were currently four sites left to be reviewed, which would then be narrowed down further.

Councilor Castelle indicated the Friends of the Library Book sale surpassed last year's sale and said on January 25, 2013, the Library would be having their Wine Social with advance tickets costing \$12 and tickets at the door costing \$15.

XII. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – IN GENERAL

Rose Lyons, 46 Elton Drive: She wanted to thank the Economic Development Committee for inviting the DOT and staff to the recent meeting but expressed concern that more residents did not attend these meetings. She asked that more advance notice be given for meetings so people could plan to attend.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT REMARKS BY COUNCILORS

Councilor Nagel indicated that Mr. Baron told him the baseball field, dugouts and tennis courts were usable and available for the spring. There were still some cosmetic items to be completed.

Councilor Klett indicated one of the homes on Mountain Road was going to be closed and the State would be moving the clients from it. She was concerned about the property being vacate and being maintained since in the past property on Cedar Crest had been an issue. She hoped the Town would have a handle on what the State planned to do with the buildings. Councilor Klett said the State planned to close at least one home by March and hoped the Town would be in communication with the State regarding these homes. Councilor Klett brought up correspondence received by the Council from a resident on Forest Drive and wondered if the Council had a better solution to the problem. She hoped to have a discussion on what was in place and what options were available. Mr. Salomone indicated he would have Mr. Malloy attend a Council meeting to review and discuss options with the Council.

XIV. EXECUTIVE SESSION RE: PERSONNEL

Councilor Bottalico moved to adjourn to go into Executive Session regarding Personnel at 8:10 p.m. and the motion was seconded by Councilor DelBuono. The motion passed 9 – 0. All Councilors and Town Manager Salomone were present for the Executive Session.

Councilor Borjeson moved to adjourn from Executive Session at 9:10 p.m. Motion seconded by Councilor Nagel. Motion passed 9-0.

XV. ADJOURNMENT

Councilor Cohen moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:11 p.m. Motion seconded by Councilor Klett. Motion passed 9-0.

Respectfully Submitted,

Linda Irish-Simpson
Clerk of the Council